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ANNUAIRE DES TRADITIONS POPULAIRES. Paris : Maisonneuve et Lechevalier. 1887. 8vo, pp. xxx, 180.

Properly speaking, this is the Annual of the French Society of Folk-Lore, a flourishing society of over two hundred members, with a quasi-governmental recognition in the shape of a subscription from the Minister of Public Instruction, and the assignment of offices in the Ethnographical Museum of the Trocadéro. The publications of the society are a monthly review and an annual containing the constitution of the society, list of members, bibliography, and a miscellany. The contents of the last Annual are as varied as possible : popular tales and songs, superstitions and customs, etc. The most valuable article, however, and one well worthy of translation in some of the future publications of our own society, is an elaborate series of instructions and questions relating to the collection of popular traditions, etc., by P. Sébillot. The instructions contain sections upon the art of collecting, classification of oral literature, and classification of objects of traditional ethnology. The questions embrace the physical world, the supernatural world, man and human life, the trades, traditions, and superstitions of a great city, folk-lore law, medical superstitions, legends, beliefs, and superstitions of the sea, and, finally, customs and beliefs of fishermen. In all of these departments extensive series of questions are suggested, which cannot fail to be of great use to collectors everywhere.

We do not see the name of a single American in the list of members, and yet everything relating to the folk-lore of France should be of interest in this country, where one of the most promising fields for collectors is precisely that settled by French emigrants.

T. F. C.

POPULAR TALES AND FICTIONS: THEIR MIGRATIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS. By W. A. CLOUSTON. London : William Blackwood & Sons ; New York : Scribner & Welford. 1887. 2 vols, post 8vo, pp. xiii, 485, 515.

We do not know of any book more calculated to awaken an interest in the comparative study of popular tales than Mr. Clouston's. We cannot imagine the most indifferent reader laying the book down without a desire to know more about the many interesting questions suggested by it. The author has not written his work to support a theory ; indeed, it does not appear that he has any very decided one, although in the main he inclines to that of Benfey, that popular tales have been introduced from India within historical times, and chiefly by literary vehicles. However, Mr. Clouston does not obtrude this view upon the reader, but allows him to draw his own conclusions from the documentary evidence he so abundantly presents. Much of the author's material is new, and gleaned from Oriental sources not accessible to the general reader. Even the professional student may find in these volumes many a parallel story that he has not seen before.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book is the introduction, in which is given a brief account of the mode in which Oriental stories were brought into Europe and so widely spread. The sources and channels

there mentioned will explain the class of stories contained in the second volume ; they are now generally recognized as inadequate to account for the class in the first volume, namely, fairy tales.

While Mr. Clouston is very widely read in his subject, the chief value of his contribution depends upon the Oriental material which it contains.

T. F. C.

PERRAULT'S POPULAR TALES. Edited from the original editions, with introduction, etc., by ANDREW LANG, M. A. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 1888. 8vo, pp. cxv, 153.

THE MOST PLEASANT AND DELECTABLE TALE OF THE MARRIAGE OF CUPID AND PSYCHE. Done into English by WILLIAM ADLINGTON, of University College in Oxford. With a discourse on the Fable, by ANDREW LANG, late of Merton College in Oxford. London. 1887. Published by David Nutt, in the Strand. 8vo, pp. lxxxvi, 65 ; two etchings, edition of 500 copies.

Mr. Lang's theory of popular tales is found in the last chapter of his work on "Myth, Ritual, and Religion" (London, 1887), only in brief, and its detailed application must be sought in his introduction to Mrs. Hunt's translation of Grimm's "Household Tales" (London, C. Bell & Sons, 1884, 2 vols. — the only complete translation of Grimm with the notes of the author), and in the two works mentioned at the head of this notice. The theory put forward by the school of philological mythologists to explain popular tales was, they were simply the *detritus* of myths. Mr. Lang's theory should be that popular tales and myths were evolved out of the same early condition of human fancy, and hence their resemblance ; the important difference being that myths seek to explain something, while popular tales, or *märchen*, do not seem to have any *raison d'être*. We say this should be Mr. Lang's theory ; but while he can account for similarity of material, he is at a loss to account for the similarity of plot, and in his latest words on the subject, "Perrault's Tales," p. cxv, he confesses his inability to give any general answer to the sphinx of popular tales.

Although this is a very unsatisfactory conclusion, the steps by which Mr. Lang arrives at it lead his readers through a charming path. "The Marriage of Cupid and Psyche" is the immortal episode from Apuleius's "Golden Ass," the oldest fairy tale of Europe. We have not space to follow Mr. Lang in his ingenious treatment of this story in the light of anthropology and savage customs, but must rest with directing the attention of our readers to it as the most elaborate application yet made by Mr. Lang of his theory to any particular tale. The book is daintily printed, and illustrated with two charming etchings. The quaint version of Adlington (first published in 1566, and which may have been read by Shakespeare) will also be found delightful reading.

"Perrault's Tales," we may say first of all, are given in the original text, which Mr. Lang has taken infinite pains to reproduce from the first edition (Paris, 1697). The text is preceded by an elaborate introduction, in which Mr. Lang discusses in his usual charming manner Charles Perrault, his tales,